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THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 02 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 134, No. 02

The Belleville Community Chorus will begin rehearsals for the 13th season at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at First United Methodist Church.

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Evalino Productions has formally launched a new theater company to present classic adult and young/adult productions at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
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Michigan State Police are investigating a shooting that left two Inkster men in critical condition following a shooting that took place Christmas night.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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Newly-elected State Rep. Kevin Coleman (D-Westland) was named an assistant democratic whip for the 100th Michigan Legislature.

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Plymouth Ice Festival begins tomorrow

The sounds of chain saws and snow-making machines will start filling downtown Plymouth today as preparations are well under way for the 37th Annual Plymouth Ice Festival which begins tomorrow and continues through Sunday.

James Geitzen of JAG entertainment which produces the event said that the only real concern is the weather, but some exhibitors and attractions have taken extreme measures to ensure that even Mother Nature can't interfere with the fun.

Sun and Snow will be making snow using machines round the clock if necessary for the cross country ski trail they install in Kellogg Park and the snow slide will use a synthetic product to make sure everyone has a good time.

This is Geitzen's fifth year at the helm of the event and the seventh year he has been involved in organizing and presenting the festival.

This year, he doesn't plan to make many changes in the Ice Festival, which continues to grow in both popularity and scope. The fan favorite attractions such as the Ice Playground, the DTE Energy Foundation Tubing Run, Fire and Ice Towers, and the Dueling Chain Saws Competition will all return. This year, a partnership with Michigan First Credit Union will bring a huge, 20-block sculpture to the event along with a petting farm and pony rides and DTE has sponsored the unique, 100-foot snow slide, which is always a huge crowd pleaser, Geitzen said..

"I enjoy the whole thing, I really do," Geitzen said. "I'm really pleased it is so successful and keeps just getting bigger and better and attracting larger crowds."

Last year the event drew nearly 100,000 visitors during the three-day weekend he noted and this year, he expects between 100-150 sculptures throughout downtown Plymouth to bring in an equally large crowd.

The annual Collegiate Ice Carving Competition, presented by Genisys Credit Union, will host two carving competitions, which will include participants from several Michigan colleges and universities. The individual competition will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12. Competitors will have three hours to carve before their creations are judged by a team of expert ice carvers.

The ice-carving team competitions will take place beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13. Teams of two carvers will work together to build and sculpt their ice carvings.

The winners of each contest will be announced and receive trophies each day around 3 p.m.

Photo by Robert Lovelace

One of the most popular family attractions of the festival, Geitzen said, is the Blue Care Network Cross-Country Skiing Zone presented by Sun and Snow. Seasoned professionals

See **Festival,** page 2

Commission 'updates' Northville Downs plan

A developer's plan for neighborhood housing bordered by commercial buildings at the current Northville Downs horse racing track property remains under consideration by members of the Northville Planning Commission members.

Commissioners voted 6-3 at the Dec. 18 meeting to refer the preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) back to the applicant, Randy Wertheimer of Hunter Pasteur Homes, for "further information". The commissioners are asking for more financial information and want the developer to adjust aspects that would bring the PUD closer to the city master plan in terms of commercial space, parking and site density, they said during the meeting.

About 150 residents attended the meeting at Hillside School including business owners, and others interested in the proposed development. It was the second meeting about the PUD; the first took place Oct. 2, 2018, when the initial plan was presented.

> *Other concerns expressed included traffic congestion and pedestrian safety.*

Wertheimer, CEO of Hunter Pasteur Homes, made several changes to the original plans following the October meeting in response to feedback from community members who attended that meeting. Wertheimer termed these changes "community benefits," which include day lighting the Middle Rouge River on the property; repositioning the houses so they don't obscure the park fronting River Street and providing an expanded area for the Farmers Market.

Wertheimer is now requesting a tax abatement of $9.5 million to cover the cost of environmental factors that need to be remedied at an estimated cost of $4.5 million as well as building 160 additional parking spaces that were not part of his original plan, estimated to cost another $5 million.

Community representatives offered several comments during the meeting noting that there is room for new students in the Northville School District. Residents also commented that the developer's current commercial space doesn't meet master plan requirements and daylighting the river needs to ensure that the entire Rouge watershed is protected.

City contracted engineers, OHM, presented an analysis of options for improved traffic flow and determined that installing a roundabout at Seven Mile and Sheldon Road would be the best way to alleviate traffic congestion and improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

Other concerns expressed included traffic congestion and pedestrian safety; the opinion that townhouses would not be suitable for older residents, and the need for more or less commercial space in the development.

Grant from foundation funds purchase of PARC site

The failure of a ballot millage question may have temporarily discouraged supporters of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC), but they are far from defeated.

A grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has facilitated the purchase of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex by PARC, a 501c3 non-profit corporation.

The transfer of ownership was finalized Jan. 2, according to PARC President Don Soenen.

The 16.6-acre site near downtown Plymouth has been home to the PARC since Central Middle School was closed by the Plymouth-Canton school district in 2015. More than 25 arts, recreation, and education organizations are presently based at PARC, including the Michigan Philharmonic, theater groups and artists in various disciplines.

> *The Jack Wilcox Theater will be a legacy to Jack's commitment to the Plymouth community.*

"The breadth of organizations at PARC provide a valued service to many in the community," said Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation.

In addition to the grant from the Community Foundation, the Wilcox Family Foundation provided a contribution of $200,000 as part of a $1 million multi-year pledge, concurrent with PARC becoming the owner of the property. A portion of the pledge is designated to provide a 150-200 seat theater in the existing building, Soenen explained.

"We are honored by the support of the prestigious Wilcox Family Foundation. The Jack Wilcox Theater will be a legacy to Jack's commitment to the Plymouth community," Soenen said.

A millage question on the November ballot, seeking 0.75-mill tax hike for 20 years was approved by 2,765 to 2,544 in the City of Plymouth, but was defeated 7,106-4,762 by voters in Plymouth Township. The ballot proposal would have provided necessary maintenance at the 100-year-old school building and funded the construction of an 800-seat theater on the adjacent property.

Mark and Patty Malcolm, who donated $3.5 million to purchase the school and property from the Plymouth Canton Community School District, said they were pleased with the transfer of ownership.

"With the loss of the millage making the viability and survival of PARC so uncertain, we are delighted and grateful to have found a way forward that will keep the historic building alive with such great organizations and activities for the benefit of the community," the couple said in a prepared statement.

Details about the changes in plans at PARC necessitated by the millage failure will be communicated in a public meeting at the Penn Theatre beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16.

The Penn Theatre is located across from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. For more information, contact Soenen at (734) 927-4090.

Plymouth

Technology 'Petting Zoo' draws large crowd

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

> *Books aren't going away. I do personally get a little concerned with the screen time*

Virtual reality lived up to the hype for 9-year-old Gavin Borensik last week at the Plymouth District Library.

"It felt like I was flying. I felt so dizzy," Borensik, said of his experience with cutting edge technology on display during a library program Dec. 29 and 30.

Librarian Katie Page advised Borensik to, "look at it briefly" as he used goggles to watch the monitor screen.

"Good job," Page added as encouragement.

The "Technology Petting Zoo" took place Saturday and Sunday when students were out of school for the holidays. The event drew a crowd of all ages although Page noted it was geared for beginners.

"If you get dizzy, you just take it off," she instructed a child using the goggles. "It goes over my bulky glasses."

Page said, "We've got a lot of cool stuff" at the library. "It's just a fun thing for people to do on the weekend."

She and Charlie Stratton, a technology assistant at the library on Main Street in downtown Plymouth, agreed technology should have limits for young children.

"That's just it, to connect the two things together," he said of books as well as "the connection to the outdoors."

"You can travel the world," Page said of the virtual reality experience. She's a gamer and sees value in that although she added that is her personal opinion.

"Books aren't going away. I do personally get a little concerned with the screen time," said Page. "You need to give them (children) exposure to regular books. We need the distractions as well as the serious things."

Borensik was with his family from Plymouth and said he liked the Technology Petting Zoo experience.

"That's pretty cool. I feel like I'm really flying. Does it have any functions besides flying?" he asked.

"No, this is a simple one," Page said. She gave varied instructions, as did the other staffers, based on student ages.

Stratton said children and teens need variety and the key "is what piques their interest and gets them going."

Gavin Borensik, 9, of Plymouth tries out virtual reality.

Lawsuit claims 5-year-old assaulted at church

> *The police investigation continued for 17 months but was subsequently closed pending any new evidence or information in the case.*

First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth has been sued by the family of a 5-year-old girl, claiming the church was negligent in protecting the child from a sexual assault.

The lawsuit was filed last week in Wayne County Circuit Court claiming that the child was sexually assaulted at the church on Palm Sunday in 2017. The suit identifies the girl only as a Jane Doe to protect the identity of the family.

The suit, filed on behalf of the family by attorney Monica Beck, alleges that the child attended Sunday school at the church on the day of the incident under the tutelage of substitute teachers who put all the children in grades K-5 together in one class. When the 5-year-old was excused to use the lavatory, she was allowed to leave unescorted and was gone from the room for 20 minutes, according to the lawsuit which also claims her absence went unnoticed. The suit claims that an unknown man assaulted her sexually while she was in the church lavatory and exposed himself to her.

The same evening, the child told her parents what had happened earlier in the day and they reported the incident to the Plymouth Police Department the next day. The parents supplied police with the clothing the girl had been wearing and unidentified male DNA was found in her underwear, according to the lawsuit.

The only description the 5-year-old was able to provide was that the man was an adult wearing a cross on a chain, according to the suit.

The police investigation continued for 17 months but was subsequently closed pending any new evidence or information in the case.

The lawsuit alleges the family is worried about the welfare of other children in the community and that the church was negligent in the care of the child. The family attorney said the church did not inform anyone in the congregation that the assault had taken place for more than a month.

A statement from the church was issued Jan. 3, the same day the suit was filed which stated: "The Church was made aware of a claim involving a child on Palm Sunday in April 2017 and immediately commissioned an investigation. The Church has fully cooperated with, and provided information to, the Plymouth Police in connection with the police investigation. The Church has not seen any lawsuit involving this matter and was not aware of the filing.

"The Church is deeply saddened by this claim and continues to pray for anyone involved."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Plymouth Police Department at (734) 354-3232 or (734) 453-8600.

Festival

FROM PAGE 1

will explain the gear, help suit people up and give them the chance to experience a mini-winter wonderland on the cross-country skiing trail built in Kellogg Park.

Another highly-anticipated attraction of the festival, Geitzen said, is the Ice Playground. This interactive space is filled with games carved out of ice and numerous ice sculptures providing plenty of opportunities for pictures while children play in the ice.

He added that the festival wouldn't be complete for many local visitors without the traditional Party Lot behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest Street, where there will be cold beer, drink specials, and live music. The Party Lot has become "The Place" to be for nightly entertainment - along with the ice bar in front of the restaurant where visitors can enjoy some Stolichnaya Vodka specialties.

This year will feature live entertainment by Smokin' Mirrors on Friday, Jan.12 and Power Play Detroit on Sat., Jan. 13

"We do a lot of festivals," Geitzen said, "but this one of my real favorites. It is a great time and a terrific excuse to get out in the cold and walk the downtown streets of Plymouth. This event benefits everybody, the visitors, the merchants, the community. Don't miss it."

(A complete guide to the Ice Festival attractions is included with this edition of The Eagle.)

Fire destroys home

An early morning fire New Years Day in Plymouth Township had community fire fighters from four departments battling the blaze for almost four hours, according to township fire department officials. According to firefighters at the scene, the fire at the unoccupied single-family residence, located at 50081 Shefield Court, was fully involved when the first fire company arrived and took two hours to bring under control. Firefighters from all three Plymouth Township fire stations were called on to respond at the time of the initial 9-1-1, call at 2:15 a.m. Firefighters from the City of Plymouth, Northville Township and Canton departments provided mutual aid. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation. The home, according to Zillow.com, was listed for sale for the past 62 days for $395,000. There were no reported injuries in the incident.

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INKSTER - ROMULUS

Martin Luthur King Jr. celebration set Jan. 21

Plans are already under way for the celebration marking Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Romulus later this month.

A community celebration titled Standing Up For Democracy, will begin at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 21 at Romulus Middle School and the Community March will begin at 8 a.m. when participants will walk to Romulus High School for breakfast served by members of the Romulus Rotary club. At 9:30 a.m., the official program will begin in the Romulus High School Auditorium,.

The event is sponsored annually by the City of Romulus, the Romulus Ministerial Alliance and the Romulus Community School District. Romulus Middle School, where the Community March will begin is located at 37300 Wick Road. There will be a shuttle service provided from Romulus High School at 9650 Wayne Road to Romulus Middle School from 7 until 7:45 a.m.

For more information about the annual community celebration of Dr. King's birthday, contact Committee Chairman, the Rev. Arthur Willis, (313)701-2413 or Romulus City Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg at (734) 955-4545.

> "President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983.

Dr. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in Dr. King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Celebrated annually on the third Monday of January, Martin Luther King Day is a time when the nation pauses to remember Dr. King's life and work, but also to honor his legacy by making the holiday a day of community service, "a day on, not a day off." It is a federal holiday and offices, both federal, county, state and local are closed. Banks are closed and there is no mail delivery.

Police investigate shootings

Michigan State Police are continuing the investigation into a shooting that left two Inkster men in critical condition Christmas night, Dec. 25.

Inkster police were called to a home in the area of Carlysle and Harriet streets where they discovered two men, one 22 and one 26, suffering from gunshot wounds, according to police reports. Officials called the Michigan State Police to investigate the double shooting. The two men were transported to a local hospital and police said the victims were in stable, but critical condition.

Detectives executed several search warrants in the area but have not confirmed whether the shootings were two separate incidents or related, police said.

Police were not releasing any further details of the incident at press time.

Anyone with information is asked to call Michigan State Police at (734) 287-5000.

Sewing Sisters

The Inkster Commission on Aging Sewing Sisters group includes, from left, Inkster residents Reletha Rice, Betty Jackson and Deborah Owens. Owens also serves on the Commission on Aging. The women stitch up quilts which are carried by police officers in Inkster patrol cars and are given to Inkster children to comfort them in times of stress. Photo by Julie Brown

Senior tax help is available

The Romulus Senior Center will provide free tax services through AARP again this year.

City Treasurer Stacy Paige, along with a group of trained volunteers, will help senior and low income residents with tax filings.

The first day tax services will be available will be Feb. 21 and appointment scheduling began Jan. 7.

Those using the service will need to provide a copy of their income tax return from last year, all forms indicating federal income, W2 forms for those who eared a salary or wages, proof of residential taxes paid, unemployment compensation records, dependent care provider information statements which include the name, employer identification number, Social Security Number and any other 1099 forms.

Those who plan to itemize deductions will need all receipts or canceled checks. Band statements showing any earned dividend amounts.

To make an appointment, call the senior center at (734) 955-4120.

Dollar Store robber sought

Inkster police are continuing the search for a man who robbed a General Dollar store at gunpoint on Christmas Eve.

The only description provided by police of the suspect is that he is a younger black man. He reportedly fled the scene of the Inkster robbery as a passenger in a white vehicle, heading toward Inkster Road.

Anyone with information about the suspect or the robbery is asked to contact the Inkster Police Detective Bureau at (313) 563-9850, ext. 23125. Callers can remain anonymous.

Police provided no further information regarding the ongoing investigation.

Authors to speak at library

The Romulus Library will offer some interesting secrets, insights into World War II prisoner of war camps and highlights of craft beers during the first weeks of the new year.

As part of the winter Author Speaker Series, Karen Dybis will be featured at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31. Dybis is the author of Secret Detroit and will discuss several fun and interestingly obscure places to explore in Detroit, featured in her book.

In February, Greg Sumner will discuss his new book, Michigan POW Camps in World War II beginning at 6:30 on Thursday, Feb. 28.

In March, visitors can explore the art of craft beer with author Bill Rapai whose book Brewed in Michigan was named a Notable Book. Rapai will speak at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 21.

The programs are free and no registration is required. The speakers are sponsored by the Friends of the Romulus Public Library. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information, call (734) 942-7589.

To subscribe to The Eagle call 734-467-1900.

NOTICE
PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township, Department of Public Works, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Department of Public Works, 734-354-3270, Extension 3, for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.
Thank You

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JERRY VORVA
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

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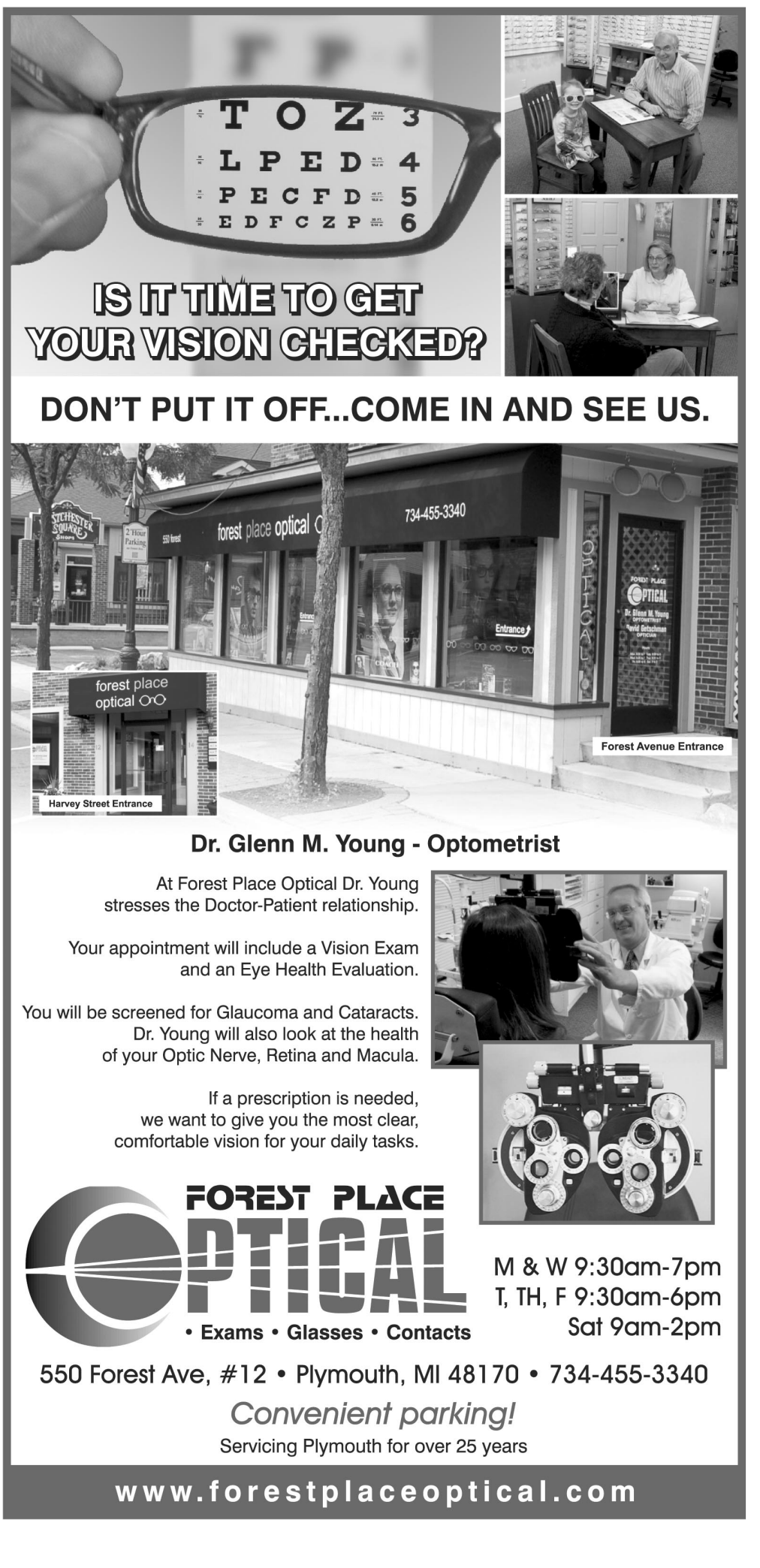
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Belleville - Wayne - Westland

Winner of Three Cities Club art show named

Three Cities Art Club has named the winners of the 7th Annual Open Call for Artists Exhibition at the Westland Gallery at City Hall 2018-2019. Juror Jean-Paul Aboudib selected 60 pieces from 81 entries to be exhibited and, as judge, selected several artist's works of art for awards.

In the Drawing, Painting and Mixed Media category first place went to Alga Washington for her work, Cause She Said So; second place was awarded to Kay Masini for Aztec Chief; third place went to Tim O'Keefe for Winder Morning and Peggy Kerwan and Sharlene Welton earning honorable mentions for Shoes in the City and Homestead respectively.

First place in the Photography category was awarded to Megan Daugherty for Retrospection; second place to John Middlestead for Window to the Grand Tetons; third place to The Climb by Megan Daugherty and honorable mentions to Chicago by Allen Brooks and Desert Driftwood by Gwendolyn Roth.

The prizes included cash honorariums of $150 for first place, $100 for second place, $50 for third place and $30 gift certificates to D&M Art Studio for honorable mention.

"The first place winners in both photography and general media possessed unique and attention arresting sensibilities which transcended them to award winning caliber art," Aboudib said.

> *It was truly an honor to have been part of this wonderful show.*

"While all the work in the show was tremendous and a delight to be a part of, the first place winners held a special place in my heart. Both of these pieces articulated a narrative woven from a creative place of artistic integrity and conceptual fortitude.

"The figure painting confronted me with the subject's attitude and commanding presence as I found myself intransigently attracted to the vortex of her gaze.

"The first place photo embarked on a story of fragmented ideas and a perceived stream of consciousness. It wove a tale of a phantasmagorical landscape bound only by the constraints of the human imagination.

"It was truly an honor to have been part of this wonderful show," Aboudib said.

Westland Mayor William Wild selected Haunted Eyes by Jon Lange as winner of his $100 Wild About Art Award.

The major sponsor of the show was Dr. Amanda Apfelblat of Michigan Chiropractic along with sponsors Sharon Lee Dillenbeck of D&M Art Studio and Arie Leibovitz of Ari-El Enterprises, Inc.

The winning art will remain on exhibit through Jan. 24, at Westland Gallery at City Hall located at 36300 Warren, Westland, Michigan 48185.

For more information or to purchase a piece of art, contact Marilyn Meredith at (313) 231-3939 or via email at marilynmeredith@wowway.com.

Paramedic injured in ambulance crash

A paramedic from Huron Valley Ambulance was critically injured while attending a patient when the ambulance was struck by another vehicle last week.

According to Michigan State Police reports, a Van Buren Township firefighter was driving the ambulance while two paramedics attended to a patient suffering a heart attack. As the ambulance slowed at the intersection of Ecorse and Haggerty roads at about 1 p.m. Jan. 4, "another motorist struck the ambulance rolling (it) to its side."

The ambulance was in the intersection when the collision occurred, according to police. "A paramedic within the back (of the ambulance) was critically inured with a head injury," the police report states.

Another ambulance was dispatched to the scene and took all the injured to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

The heart-attack victim and the paramedic were reported in critical condition during the weekend.

Police did not release any further details regarding the incident.

Area mourns death of Karen Norton

Karen Ann Norton

Memorial services for Karen Ann Norton are planned for Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.

Mrs. Norton was born Aug. 21, 1936 and died peacefully in her sleep Jan. 3, 2019. An active businesswoman on her own, Mrs. Norton was the widow of Patrick J. Norton, a former mayor and city councilman in Wayne for 29 years. Mr. Norton died in 2011 at the age of 76 from complications of Parkinson's disease. The couple had been married for 50 years at the time of his death.

Mrs. Norton attended St. Mary School in Wayne and Western Michigan University.

Mrs. Norton is survived by her children, PJ, Nancy (Martin Garthwaite) Norton, Brian (Stephanie) and John; grandchildren Patrick and Eric Norton and Cole and Dylan Garthwaite and siblings, Patricia, Kate and Mike.

Services will begin with a memorial gathering at noon and a memorial service at 4 p.m., at the funeral home, 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

Memories can be shared with the family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

Chorus rehearsals begin

The award-winning Belleville Community Chorus (BCC) under the direction of Rachael Parr will begin rehearsals for the 13th season at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville.

The chorus is open to all singers, whether new to the group or those who have sung with them in the past. Soprano, alto, tenor, bass, are all welcome to be part of the group, organizers said.

The BCC is a non-profit organization, made up of volunteers of all ages who love to sing. They perform a variety of choral music, for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of their members and audiences in the surrounding communities, according to organizers. The rehearsal is a practice for the upcoming spring concert of the group.

The chorus can always use a few helpful folks who would be willing to help coordinate the organization behind the scenes, the organizers added.

For more information, contact Paula Pence-Poston at (734) 725-1425 or email to mspaula35@hotmail.com. or visit www.bellevillechorus.com.

Legislator named 'assistant whip'

Newly-elected State Rep. Kevin Coleman (D-Westland) was named an assistant democratic whip for the 100th Michigan Legislature. Coleman is serving his first term representing the 16th House District.

"I am honored to be chosen to serve alongside several of my new colleagues and fight for the priorities of Michigan families," Coleman said.

"Making my community and the state of Michigan a better place to live and work has always been a priority for me, first around my community, then on the Westland City Council.

"I'm ready to dive in and do the necessary work to make this the Michigan we all deserve," he said.

As assistant democratic whip, Coleman will be working directly with Democratic Whip Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Township) to build support for House democrats' legislative priorities during the 2019-20 session. Before seeking state-level public office, Coleman served as a member of the Westland City Council.

He also spent several years working in his community on the Westland Festival Committee and the Westland Veterans Association.

He is a graduate of Western Michigan University.

Kevin Coleman

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2003 BUICK RENDEZVOUS 3G5DA03E93S516173
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2008 CHEVROLET IMPALA 2G1WB58K289256349
2005 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4AL11D25N432284
2003 CHRYSLER SEBRING 1C3EL46X23N578055
2008 CHEVROLET MALIBU 1G1ZH57B584213642
2002 FORD ESCAPE 1FMYU03162KC19138
2002 MERCURY COUGAR 1ZWFT61L125602949
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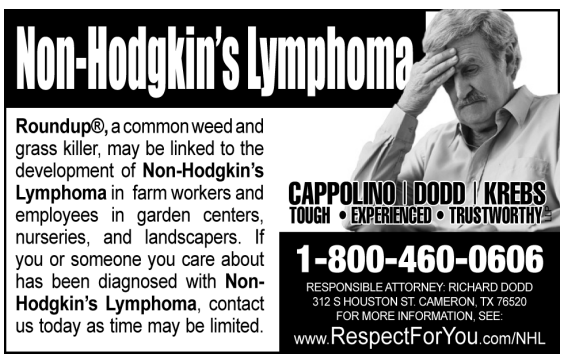
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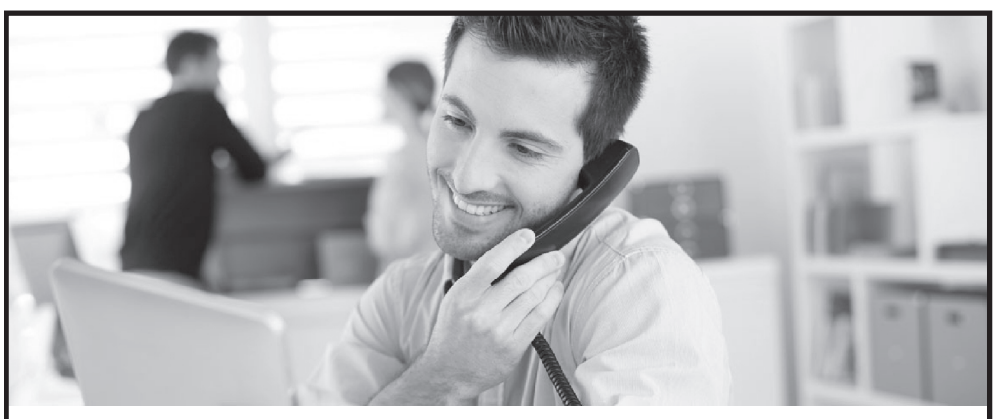

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Canton - Northville

Rescue Recovery program offered in area

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Those with substance abuse issues can get help from Growth Works Inc., which offers a Rescue Recovery program. It responds 24/7 for Canton and Northville townships, Westland and Livonia, with a focus on St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia.

"There are multiple pathways to recovery out there," noted Patrick Stropes, Growth Works supervisor of Rescue Recovery, peer support services. He and Allison Herrst, lead peer recovery coach there, support regular Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous efforts.

"I know that having any 12-step recovery program" helps, he said. "Finding a power greater than themselves. It's just finding where you fit in and where you can relate."

Their longstanding program requires paid coaches to be in recovery at least two years, a requirement both Herrst and Stropes meet.

"It's a spiritual program," said Stropes, rather than religious, of NA and AA.

He touts his 1,797 days of sobriety. Stropes notes Growth Works coaches for substance abuse are certified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"They're being assisted by people who have walked in their shoes," he said. "It's our responsibility to give back and help other people who are struggling."

Both tout the work of the PC Alano Club, 8669 N. Lilley, south of Joy Road in Canton.

The 12-step meetings and the PC Alano Club give a "healthy and safe place to gather during the holidays," he said.

"It definitely can for a lot of people (be a struggle). Their family's not ready to have them back in their lives.," Herrst said.

Custody issues with children are a factor as well, she added.

Some family members use drugs and are enablers, she noted. Her family had trust issues "because I was under the influence." She praised her parents.

"They cut me off and that was probably the hardest thing they had to do," she said. "They made some phone calls" to help.

Her parents' focus was, "I can't help you until you're ready to help yourself."

Stropes notes many people can't drink responsibly, and explains that alcoholism is a disease much like cancer or diabetes.

He agrees others are more aware of what alcohol does to the body. "We see red flashing lights," he noted.

Their Rescue Recovery program helps, as does the PC Alano Club with both 12-step recovery meetings and social gatherings, during the holidays and year-round.

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, and is an international mutual aid fellowship. The purpose is to help members to remain sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

The Narcotics Anonymous organization was founded in 1953.

The Alano Club meetings, Herrst noted, are "kind of like a big Christmas party. There's always somebody there. We know the holidays can be a stressful time."

"They can go there and mingle with other people who are in recovery," Stropes added.

Their certification, and that of their colleagues, is "certified peer recovery coach." Both agree listening matters to those in recovery, along with getting them resources.

"I have an allergy to alcohol," said Herrst, who always asks at social functions about food and beverage contents.

"I don't like the taste. It just reminds me of my drinking," she said, adding, "There is help and they can recover from addiction."

Stropes notes the stigma of addiction and people's fears their employer will judge them harshly.

They stress the work also of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention which operates a 24/7 help line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Those with suicide thoughts are also encouraged to text HOME to 741741 at any time, they said.

The website www.afsp.org for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has more information.

Herrst and Stropes agree healthy eating, friendships and exercise help. too. "We refer to it as self-care," Stropes said, noting reading and meditation are useful.

"Another one that's really good is putting down social media for a time," he said, such as unplugging for an hour a day.

"Boundaries are healthy, healthy, healthy. I was a great manipulator who had to change his ways.

"Our program's amazing in connecting people to resources," he added.

Patrick Stropes and Allison Herrst of Growth Works help those who struggle with substance abuse, as they have faced in their own lives.

They help families through Growth Works too, working with doctors, nurses, other hospital staff and police.

"We have coaches on call. We're always there to help," Stropes said. In Northville and Canton townships, Westland and Livonia people can also go directly to the police departments if they need immediate help from Growth Works.

The PC Alano Club is a "good, safe environment. They have food, fellowship, events" now and the rest of the year.

Families can reach out to Growth Works for resources during weekday business hours by calling (734) 495-1722.

New theater group formed

> *Auditions for the production will be take place Feb.12 and 13, at The Village Theater.*

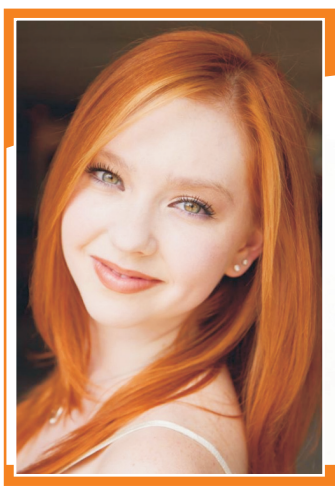
Evalino Productions has formally launched a newly-formed theater company that promises classic adult productions and high-quality young adult/children productions at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The first production of the company will be a children's musical with more than 21 available roles for actors 17 and younger planned for the first week of May in the Biltmore Studio.

Auditions for the production will be take place Feb.12 and 13, at The Village Theater. The company will also be announcing their "pay what you can" fee to participate in a play presented by Evalino Productions as well as introductions.

The mission of Evalino Productions is to create a theatrical environment where respect for theater is held to a higher standard through providing a mentoring program for young adults and children exploring all aspects of theater led by professionally educated and experienced adults. The company is also dedicated to empowering children by offering them challenges that help them grow as young actors and nourish their self-confidence. Evalino will produce plays for adults that have substantial messages and are true classics and produce musicals of all sizes that include adults, children, and families. The theater company is also dedicated to offering patrons a theatrical experience where they will understand how passionate the company is about theater through high-quality productions.

To subscribe to The Eagle call 734-467-1900.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Calendar of events

Tree recycling available

Westland residents can drop off their Christmas tree at the Recycling Center at the DPS building located at 37137 Marquette during regular operating hours from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Friday, Jan. 18. Trees should be free of decorations.

As part of the city Mission:Green Initiative, all trees received will be chipped and recycled for use at the City of Westland Community Garden and other locations. Christmas trees can also be placed on the curb the day of regular trash pick-up through Friday, Jan. 11, but trees taken to the curb will not be recycled.

For more information, call (734)728-1770.

Free Stop Smoking Seminar

The Belleville Seventh-day Adventist Church will host free Stop Smoking Seminars at 7 p.m. Jan. 11 and 14.

The seminars will take place at the church, 89 S. Edgemont St. in Belleville.

Pre-registration is available at (918) 902-9977.

Hooper'cise classes planned

Hooper'cise, an exercise program using hula hooping will that place every second and fourth weekends at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt Road in Inkster from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and from 11 a.m. until noon on Saturdays.

The cost is $5 per person.

The classes include waist hooping, arm hooping, and introductory dance movements. Participants usually burn up to 450 calories in an hour and strengthen abdominal and core muscles.

To sign up, call Dakima Jackson, (734) 419-1973.

Officials set coffee hour

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will be hosting a Coffee Hour event in Inkster with State Sen. Betty Jean Alexander from noon until 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at the Western Wayne Family Health Center, located at 2700 Hamlin Boulevard in Inkster.

Anderson encouraged residents to attend and discuss issues of importance to them.

Library Storytimes start

Winter Storytimes are starting up for the New Year at the Belleville Area District Library: Monday Night Family Storytimes (for children ages 4 - 10) will take place at 7 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 14 through Feb. 25; Tuesday Toddler Times (for ages 2 - 4) - will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 15 through Feb. 26 and Thursday Toddler Times (for ages 2 - 4) take place at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 through Feb. 28.

Sign up at http://belleville.evanced.info/signup or at the reference desk in the library.

The library is located at 167 Fourth St. in Belleville.

Coffee With A Cop in Inkster

The Inkster Police Department will host Coffee With A cop at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 at Gracie See Pastaria, 26734 Michigan Ave. in Inkster.

There is no agenda or speeches just a chance to enjoy a cup of coffee, ask questions, voice concerns, and get acquainted with the officer in your neighborhood, officials said.

Martin Luther King honored

The Canton community will once again honor the memory and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special tribute beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

A punch and cookie reception will precede the main program which will begin at 6:30 p.m. This special event will feature keynote speaker Martin A. Philbert, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan.

There will also be a special performance by Dodson's Elementary School choir. Tickets are only available at the door for $2 per person or $5 per family. For additional information, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5300.

Family support group meets

The Northwest Wayne County Chapter of Families Against Narcotics offers a support group for those with a loved one addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Meetings take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. Meetings begin with a whole group discussion followed by small conversational groups centered on individual concerns.

Meetings take place at the Canton Municipal Complex, Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton.

For further information contact jacalynsanders@aol.com

Butterfly Ball tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the Butterfly Ball, a Valentine's Day tradition in Canton.

The dance will take place Feb. 8 and 9 at the Summit on the Park, offering a unique experience and plenty of special memories. Dads and daughters can enjoy an evening of dancing, refreshments, a special butterfly souvenir, and the highly anticipated- balloon drop that caps off the festivities.

Guests can choose from three dances: 6 p.m. Feb. 8 or 2 or 6 p.m. Feb. 9.

Ticket sales will end Feb.1.

Tickets are priced at $11 for Canton residents and $14 for non-residents. Dads and daughters, regardless of age, are required to purchase a ticket to attend. The event has sold out in the past, so early ticket purchase is encouraged. For more information, call (734) 394-5460.

Fraud seminar planned

The Inkster Police Department and th Inkster Commission on Aging will present a seminar on avoiding scams and fraud from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23 at the Booker Dozier Recreation Complex, 2025 Middlebelt Road in Inkster.

The seminar is open to the public at no cost. Members of the Inkster Police Department will present ways to avoid being a victim of fraud, internet and phone scams and identity theft.

Geneaologists meet Sunday

Paul H. Scheidler will speak to the Northville Genealogical Society about the "Mexican American War 1846-1848" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13 at the Northville District Library.

A roundtable discussion of Funeral Homes and Cemeteries will begin at 1:15 p.m. followed by a business meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Scheidler, who served in the Army for 32 years and is a retired Colonel, will speak at 3 p.m. He has masters degrees in history from Eastern Michigan University and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. A writer for the Michigan History Magazine, he is also the commander of the Michigan Sons of Union Veterans Post #120.

Scheidler will discuss the veterans of the war, who they were and what they did, and how they cannot be located by average genealogical research methods.

The free meeting is open to the public. The library is located at 212 West Cady St. in Northville.

For more information, call (734-812-2449.)

Stonefly Search volunteers sought

Friends of the Rouge are seeking volunteers for the Annual Winter Stonefly Search set for Jan. 26.

Pre-registration for volunteers is required for the opportunity to learn about what lives under the ice in local Rouge streams while giving back by helping collect data on the health of the river.

Interested volunteers must pre-register by phone at (734) 927-4904 or spetrella@therouge.org.

Volunteers will be meeting for the first time at Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center, 650 Church St, Plymouth, MI 48170.

There also will be a "Stonefly Refresher" from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Jan.12 at the same location to get people ready for Jan. 26.

The Stonefly Search is part of Friends of the Rouge long-term monitoring program that includes the Spring and Fall Bug Hunts.

Jazz at the Elks planned

Planet D Nonet will perform from 7 until 9:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325.

There is a $10 donation which includes hors d'oeuvres.

The lodge is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-1780.

Tax help offered

Volunteer aides from the AARP Foundation will offer free tax preparation services to seniors at the Northville Community Center on Thursdays, Feb. 7 - April 12. This service has been offered to the community for at least 10 years at the Community Center.

The volunteers who work on tax preparation are certified.

Tax preparation is by appointment only, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and typically takes 1 to 1½ hours. Taxpayers will get a copy of their e-filed returns, both state and federal. Only personal tax returns, not business tax returns, are processed.

To schedule an appointment, call (248) 305-2851 during business hours. Those who sign up will be contacted by a volunteer to let them know what documentation should be provided to prepared the tax forms.

Parent Night planned

Parents with students entering Wayne Memorial High School for the 2019 year can learn more about the school during a meeting set in February.

The meeting is designed for parents and students transitioning to 9th grade or those interested in more information about transferring to Wayne Memorial High School for the 2019-2020 year.

Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend the meeting set for 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include: scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, Advanced Placement courses, extra-curricular activities, and others.

The meeting is open to the public and questions are encouraged.

Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium.

Any additional questions should be directed to the Counseling Department at (734) 419.2215.

Library to sell used books

The Friends of the Westland Library will host a used book sale beginning with a preview sale from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. The general sale will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 8 and 9. Bag Day will take place from noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 10.

The library is located at 6123 Central City Pkwy. in Westland. For information, call (734) 326-6123.

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A volunteer will return your call with information about required documentation and confirmation of appointment time.

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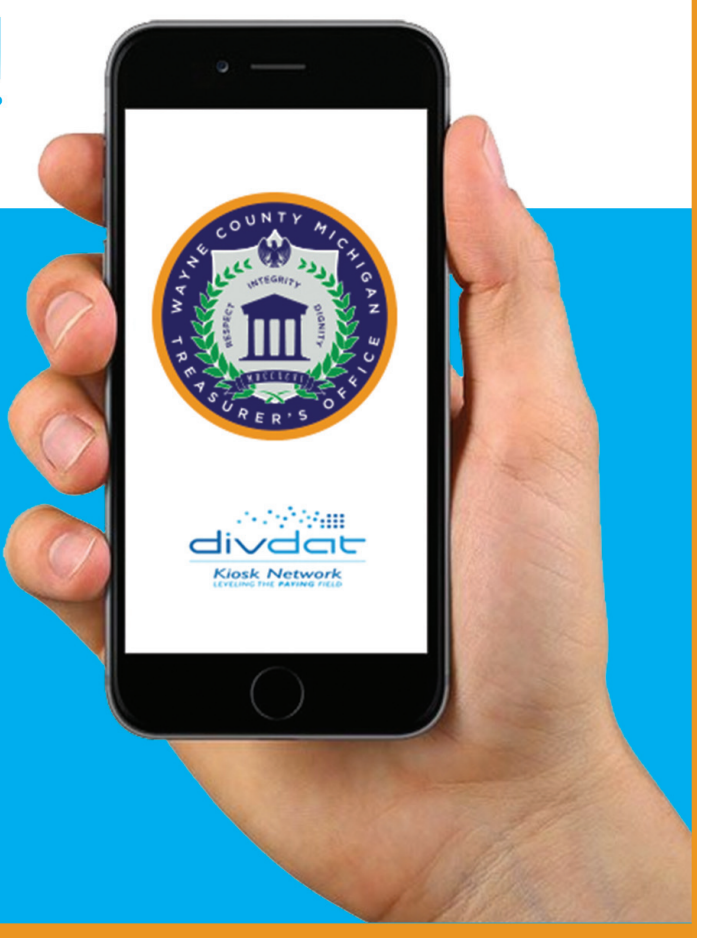

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